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OSWALD, LEE, POST-RUSSIAN PERIOD
FBI, ADMINISTRATION

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MEMORANDUM

SUMMARY OF DEPOSITION

TO: G. Robert Blakey
Chief Counsel

FROM: Robert Genzman
Staff Counsel

DATE: July 31, 1978

RE: Summary of Deposition of Orest Pena
June 23, 1978, New Orleans, Louisiana

Pena was an FBI informant in New Orleans beginning in 1959 or 1960. (p. 5) He reported to FBI Special Agent Warren C. de Brueys for a number of years, the exact number of which he cannot remember. (pp. 6, 7) He spoke to de Brueys many, many times. (p. 9) He provided information which he obtained in connection with his position as a bar owner in New Orleans. (p. 6) He was never paid for the information he provided. (p. 7)

Pena worked in some capacity for another United States government agency, which he refused to identify. (pp. 9, 10) He refused to answer the question of whether he has had any relationship with the CIA, even when shown the CIA release letter labeled JFK Exhibit #94. (pp. 27, 28)

Pena never worked for Fidel Castro. (p. 6)

In regard to the allegation that Lee Harvey Oswald was an FBI informant, Pena saw Oswald at a restaurant on Decatur and Iberville Streets in New Orleans in the company of "other federal agents from the Customs House Building." (pp. 11, 12) De Brueys was among this group. (pp. 12, 17) Pena refused to say whether he ever observed Oswald and de Brueys speaking together. (pp. 12, 13) He believes the two knew each other "very, very well." (p. 13) Pena saw Oswald, de Brueys, and other government agents leaving the restaurant and going to the Customs House Building. (pp. 16, 17) When Oswald was "transferred to Dallas," de Brueys was "transferred to Dallas" at the same time. (p. 13) Pena is "very, very, very sure" that de Brueys was transferred to Dallas before the Kennedy assassination. (p. 13)

Pena believes that Oswald was an agent of the U.S. government. (p. 18)

Pena contends that there is a connection between the Kennedy assassination and Cuban training camps in New Orleans. (pp. 14, 15, 28, 33)

Pena did not testify on all relevant issues before the Warren Commission, because de Brueys had threatened him before he was scheduled to testify, and because Commission Counsel Wesley Liebeler did not cooperate. (pp. 18, 19)

Pena told a number of people, including Mark Lane and Harold Weisberg, that Oswald was an FBI informant. (pp. 20, 21) In 1975 Pena publicly alleged that Oswald was an FBI informant on CBS television. (p. 18)

Oswald once entered Pena's bar with two or three Spanish-looking individuals and ordered lemonade. (pp. 23, 24, 25)

Pena saw Oswald handing out Fair Play for Cuba Committee pamphlets in New Orleans. (p. 22) He saw the fight between Oswald and Bringuer. (p. 22) Pena later posted bond for Bringuer. (p. 23)

Pena has been told that he and Oswald each applied for a passport in New Orleans on June 24, 1963. (p. 25) He does not remember seeing Oswald at that time. (p. 25, 26) He thinks he would have remembered seeing Oswald if he and Oswald had applied at the same time. (p. 26) He does not know why his name was omitted from a State Department list (Warren Commission Exhibit 952) which included the names of people who applied for passports in New Orleans on June 24, 1963. (p. 26) He thinks that his name might have been omitted purposely on account of his informant status. (pp. 26, 27) Pena does not believe he traveled to Mexico in the Fall of 1963. (p. 27) He never saw Oswald in Mexico. (p. 27) He never traveled to Mexico or to any other countries on any intelligence missions. (p. 27)

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MEMORANDUM

TO: G. Robert Blakey, Chief Counsel
FROM: Robert Genzman, Staff Counsel
DATE: July 31, 1978
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